WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A server which can communicate with a client and a device, comprising:

retrieval means for retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with a retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and

notifying means for notifying said client of a retrieval result of said retrieval means.

2.   A server according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving means for receiving the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client from said device; and

registering means for registering the information received by said receiving means into a storage.

3.   A server according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving means for receiving the device information of said device from said device;

first registering means for registering the device information received by said receiving means into a first storage; and

second registering means for registering the
5   ability information of said device driver into a second storage.

4.   A server according to claim 3, wherein the device information stored in said first storage and the
10   ability information stored in said second storage are combined.

5.   A server according to claim 1, further comprising:
15   registering means for registering the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client into a storage.
20

6.   A server according to claim 1, wherein said retrieval condition includes a plurality of conditions,

said retrieval means compares the information
25   obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client with

each of said conditions, and

said notifying means notifies said client of an
adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions
among said plurality of conditions included in said

5   retrieval condition.

7.   A server according to claim 1, wherein said
device information is information regarding one of a
duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an

10   OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print
pages, a paper size, and a status of said device.

8.   A server according to claim 1, wherein the
comparison by said retrieval means is executed with

15   respect to a plurality of devices.

9.   A client which can communicate with a server,
comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting a retrieval

20   condition for selecting a device to said server;

receiving means for receiving, from said server, a
retrieval result obtained by retrieving the device by
comparing information obtained by combining device
information of said device and ability information of a

25   device driver for said device which is executed by said
client with a retrieval condition which is received
from said client and used for selecting said device; and

display control means for allowing a comparison result received by said receiving means to be displayed by a display.

10. A client according to claim 9, further comprising input means for inputting a retrieval item and a value which is designated by said retrieval item.

11. A client according to claim 9, wherein said input means can input a plurality of retrieval items.

12. A client according to claim 9, wherein said receiving means receives an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among a plurality of conditions included in said retrieval condition, and said display control means allows said adaptivity to be displayed by said display.

13. A client according to claim 10, wherein said retrieval item relates to one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, and a paper size.

14. A device which can communicate with a server for transmitting a retrieval result to a client with respect to a retrieval condition which is sent from

said client and used for selecting said device,
comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting information
obtained by combining device information of said device

5   and ability information of a device driver for said
device which is executed by said client to said device.

15. A device according to claim 14, further
comprising:

10   first storing means for storing the device
information of said device;

second storing means for storing the ability
information of said device driver; and

combining means for combining the device

15 information stored in said first storing means and the
ability information stored in said second storing
means.

16. A device according to claim 14, further

20 comprising inquiring means for inquiring of an external
apparatus about the ability information of said device
driver.

17. A device according to claim 14, wherein said

25 device information is information regarding one of a
duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an
OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print

pages, a paper size, and a status of said device.

18. A device according to claim 14, wherein said device is one of a printer, a copy machine, a hybrid

5 machine, and a scanner.

19. A print system constructed by a device, a client, and a server, comprising:

first transfer means for transferring information

10 obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client to said server from said device;

second transfer means for transferring a retrieval

15 condition for selecting said device to said server from said client;

retrieval means for retrieving the device by comparing the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability

20 information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and

third transfer means for transferring a retrieval

25 result by said retrieval means to said client from said server.

20. A print system constructed by a device, a client, and a server, comprising:

first transfer means for transferring device information of said device to said server from said

5   device;

second transfer means for transferring a retrieval condition for selecting said device to said server from said client;

retrieval means for retrieving the device by

10   comparing information obtained by combining the device information which is transferred by said first transfer means and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval condition which is received from said client

15   and used for selecting said device; and

third transfer means for transferring a retrieval result by said retrieval means to said client from said server.

20   21. An information processing method which is executed by a server which can communicate with a client and a device, comprising:

a retrieval step of retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining device

25   information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with a retrieval condition which is received

from said client and used for selecting said device; and

a notifying step of notifying said client of a retrieval result by said retrieval step.

22. A method according to claim 21, further comprising:

a receiving step of receiving, from said device, the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client; and

a registering step of registering the information received by said receiving step into a storage.

23. A method according to claim 21, further comprising:

a receiving step of receiving the device information of said device from said device;

a first registering step of registering the device information received by said receiving step into a first storage; and

a second registering step of registering the ability information of said device driver into a second storage.

24. A method according to claim 23, wherein the

device information stored in said first storage and the ability information stored in said second storage are combined.

5   25.   A method according to claim 21, further comprising a registering step of registering the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed

10   by said client into a storage.

26.   A method according to claim 21, wherein said retrieval condition includes a plurality of conditions,

15   in said retrieval step, the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client is compared with each of said conditions, and

20   in said notifying step, said client is notified of an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among said plurality of conditions included in said retrieval condition.

25   27.   A method according to claim 21, wherein said device information is information regarding one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an

OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print
pages, a paper size, and a status of said device.

28. A method according to claim 21, wherein the
comparison by said retrieval step is executed with
respect to a plurality of devices.

29. An information processing method which is
executed by a client which can communicate with a
server, comprising:

a transmitting step of transmitting a retrieval
condition for selecting a device to said server;

a receiving step of receiving, from said server, a
retrieval result obtained by retrieving the device by
comparing information obtained by combining device
information of said device and ability information of a
device driver for said device which is executed by said
client with the retrieval condition which is received
from said client and used for selecting said device;
and

a display control step of allowing a comparison
result received by said receiving step to be displayed
by a display.

30. A method according to claim 29, further
comprising an input step of inputting a retrieval item
and a value which is designated by said retrieval item.

31. A method according to claim 29, wherein in said input step, a plurality of retrieval items can be inputted.

5   32. A method according to claim 29, wherein

in said receiving step, an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among a plurality of conditions included in said retrieval condition is received, and

10   in said display control step, said adaptivity is displayed by said display.

33. A method according to claim 30, wherein said retrieval item relates to one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion

15   print, a resolution, the number of print pages, and a paper size.

34. An information processing method which is

20   executed by a device which can communicate with a server for transmitting a retrieval result to a client with respect to a retrieval condition which is sent from said client and used for selecting said device, comprising:

25   a transmitting step of transmitting information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said

device which is executed by said client to said device.

35. A method according to claim 34, further comprising

a combining step of combining said device information stored in a first storage and said ability information stored in a second storage.

36. A method according to claim 34, further comprising an inquiring step of inquiring of an external apparatus about the ability information of said device driver.

37. A method according to claim 34, wherein said device information is information regarding one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of said device.

38. A method according to claim 34, wherein said device is one of a printer, a copy machine, a hybrid machine, and a scanner.

39. An information processing method which is executed by a print system constructed by a device, a client, and a server, comprising:

a first transfer step of transferring information

obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client to said server from said device;

5   a second transfer step of transferring a retrieval condition for selecting said device to said server from said client;

     a retrieval step of retrieving the device by comparing the information obtained by combining the

10   device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and

15   a third transfer step of transferring a retrieval result by said retrieval step to said client from said server.

     40. An information processing method which is

20   executed by a print system constructed by a device, a client, and a server, comprising:

     a first transfer step of transferring device information of said device to said server from said device;

25   a second transfer step of transferring a retrieval condition for selecting said device to said server from said client;

a retrieval step of retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining the device information which is transferred by said first transfer step and ability information of a device driver for

5   said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval condition which is received 'from said client and used for selecting said device; and

a third transfer step of transferring a retrieval result by said retrieval step to said client from said

10   server.

41.   An information processing program which is executed by a server which can communicate with a client and a device, wherein said program allows a

15   computer to execute:

a retrieval step of retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said

20   client with a retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and

a notifying step of notifying said client of a retrieval result by said retrieval step.

25

42.   A program according to claim 41, wherein said program allows the computer to execute:

a receiving step of receiving, from said device, the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client; and

a registering step of registering the information received by said receiving step into a storage.

43. A program according to claim 41, wherein said program allows the computer to execute:

a receiving step of receiving the device information of said device from said device;

a first registering step of registering the device information received by said receiving step into a first storage; and

a second registering step of registering the ability information of said device driver into a second storage.

44. A program according to claim 43, wherein the device information stored in said first storage and the ability information stored in said second storage are combined.

45. A program according to claim 41, wherein said program allows the computer to execute a registering step of registering the information obtained by

combining the device information of said device and the
ability information of the device driver for said
device which is executed by said client into a storage.

5   46.   A program according to claim 41, wherein
        said retrieval condition includes a plurality of
conditions,

        in said retrieval step, the information obtained
by combining the device information of said device and
10   the ability information of the device driver for said
device which is executed by said client is compared
with each of said conditions, and

        in said notifying step, said client is notified of
an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions
15   among said plurality of conditions included in said
retrieval condition.

        47.   A program according to claim 41, wherein said
device information is information regarding one of a
20   duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an
OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print
pages, a paper size, and a status of said device.

        48.   A program according to claim 41, wherein the
25   comparison by said retrieval step is executed with
respect to a plurality of devices.

49. An information processing program which is executed by a client which can communicate with a server, wherein said program allows a computer to execute:

5   a transmitting step of transmitting a retrieval condition for selecting a device to said server;

     a receiving step of receiving, from said server, a retrieval result obtained by retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining device

10   information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and

15   a display control step of allowing a comparison result received by said receiving step to be displayed by a display.

50. A program according to claim 49, wherein said

20 program allows the computer to execute an input step of inputting a retrieval item and a value which is designated by said retrieval item.

51. A program according to claim 49, wherein in

25 said input step, a plurality of retrieval items can be inputted.

52. A program according to claim 49, wherein

in said receiving step, an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among a plurality of conditions included in said retrieval condition is

5 received, and

in said display control step, said adaptivity is displayed by said display.

53. A program according to claim 50, wherein said

10 retrieval item relates to one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, and a paper size.

15 54. An information processing program which is executed by a device which can communicate with a server for transmitting a retrieval result to a client with respect to a retrieval condition which is sent from said client and used for selecting said device,

20 wherein said program allows a computer to execute:

a transmitting step of transmitting information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client to said device.

25

55. A program according to claim 54, wherein said program allows the computer to execute

a combining step of combining said device information stored in a first storage and said ability information stored in a second storage.

5   56.   A program according to claim 54, wherein said program allows the computer to execute an inquiring step of inquiring of an external apparatus about the ability information of said device driver.

10   57.   A program according to claim 54, wherein said device information is information regarding one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of said device.

15

58.   A program according to claim 54, wherein said device is one of a printer, a copy machine, a hybrid machine, and a scanner.

20   59.   An information processing program which is executed by a print system constructed by a device, a client, and a server, wherein said program allows a computer to execute:

a first transfer step of transferring information
25   obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client to said server

from said device;

a second transfer step of transferring a retrieval condition for selecting said device to said server from said client;

5 a retrieval step of retrieving the device by comparing the information obtained by combining the device information of said device and the ability information of the device driver for said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval condition

10 which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and

a third transfer step of transferring a retrieval result by said retrieval step to said client from said server.

15

60. An information processing program which is executed by a print system constructed by a device, a client, and a server, wherein said program allows a computer to execute:

20 a first transfer step of transferring device information of said device to said server from said device;

a second transfer step of transferring a retrieval condition for selecting said device to said server from

25 said client;

a retrieval step of retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining the device

information which is transferred by said first transfer step and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and

a third transfer step of transferring a retrieval result by said retrieval step to said client from said server.

61. A computer-readable memory medium which stores an information processing program that is executed by a server which can communicate with a client and a device, wherein said information processing program allows a computer to execute:

a retrieval step of retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining device information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with a retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and

a notifying step of notifying said client of a retrieval result by said retrieval step.

62. A medium according to claim 61, wherein said program allows the computer to execute:

a receiving step of receiving, from said device,

the information obtained by combining the device
information of said device and the ability information
of the device driver for said device which is executed
by said client; and

5   a registering step of registering the information
received by said receiving step into a storage.

63.   A medium according to claim 61, wherein said
program allows the computer to execute:

10   a receiving step of receiving the device
information of said device from said device;

a first registering step of registering the device
information received by said receiving step into a
first storage; and

15   a second registering step of registering the
ability information of said device driver into a second
storage.

64.   A medium according to claim 63, wherein the
20   device information stored in said first storage and the
ability information stored in said second storage are
combined.

65.   A medium according to claim 61, wherein said
25   program allows the computer to execute a registering
step of registering the information obtained by
combining the device information of said device and the

ability information of the device driver for said

device which is executed by said client into a storage.

66. A medium according to claim 61, wherein

said retrieval condition includes a plurality of

conditions,

in said retrieval step, the information obtained

by combining the device information of said device and

the ability information of the device driver for said

device which is executed by said client is compared

with each of said conditions, and

in said notifying step, said client is notified of

an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions

among said plurality of conditions included in said

retrieval condition.

67. A medium according to claim 61, wherein said

device information is information regarding one of a

duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an

OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print

pages, a paper size, and a status of said device.

68. A medium according to claim 61, wherein the

comparison by said retrieval step is executed with

respect to a plurality of devices.

69. A computer-readable memory medium which stores

an information processing program that is executed by a client which can communicate with a server, wherein said information processing program allows a computer to execute:

5   a transmitting step of transmitting a retrieval condition for selecting a device to said server;

a receiving step of receiving, from said server, a retrieval result obtained by retrieving the device by comparing information obtained by combining device

10   information of said device and ability information of a device driver for said device which is executed by said client with the retrieval condition which is received from said client and used for selecting said device; and

15   a display control step of allowing a comparison result received by said receiving step to be displayed by a display.

70.   A medium according to claim 69, wherein said

20   program allows the computer to execute an input step of inputting a retrieval item and a value which is designated by said retrieval item.

71.   A medium according to claim 69, wherein a

25   plurality of retrieval items can be inputted.

72.   A medium according to claim 69, wherein

in said receiving step, an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among a plurality of conditions included in said retrieval condition is received, and

5   in said display control step, said adaptivity is displayed by said display.

73.   A medium according to claim 70, wherein said retrieval item relates to one of a duplex print, an N-

10   up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, and a paper size.